



**MINUTES OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

March 4, 2020

Washoe County Senior Center, 1155 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Reno, Nevada 89512  
Game Room

1. **\*Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Vice Chair-Donna Clontz.
2. **\*Roll Call** – Donna Clontz asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present.

**WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:**

**PRESENT**

James Doyle  
Mark Miranda  
Linda Hardie  
Rick Sorensen

Danada Rausch  
Sarah Deardorff  
Donna Clontz  
Barbara Korosa

**ABSENT (EXCUSED\*)**

\*Dr. Larry Weiss  
\*Stan Dowdy (Resigned)  
\*Jennifer McMenomy

**WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT**

Steve McBride  
Sandra Vasquez  
Todd Acker

Herbert Kaplan (DA)  
Ryan Crane

**ADVISOR PRESENT**

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**ADVISOR (ABSENT)**  
Victoria Edmondson  
Connie McMullen

**3. \*Public Comment –**

Diane Baranowski states she is from Silver Haired Legislative Forum and the focus is to identify and act upon issues of importance for the aging people. She introduced Irene Tudor, who will be attending future meetings as well. The forum meets quarterly in Carson. They are learning many things that are affecting seniors such as fraud, scams, transportation, and services provided.

**4. \*Member Announcements –**

Donna announces that the City of Reno recreation fees are going up because of the minimum wage increase law that passed. She has been attending meetings where the fee increase is talked about. This affects all Nevada for all Nevada employers. They are trying to find out how not to

raise fees and requested people to take action, there is a petition going around and Donna suggested for people to attend meetings.

Rick stated he has been hearing a lot that seniors are lonely. He has been thinking about the presentation from Kindle and Sharon in the previous joint meeting.

**5. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on March 4, 2020 (For Possible Action)**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Rick Sorensen and seconded by Linda Hardie.

Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on February 5, 2020 (For Possible Action)**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Barbara Korosa and seconded by James Doyle.

Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Presentation regarding Washoe County Human Services Agency Senior Services Division Volunteer Program – Todd Acker, Program Coordinator**

Todd stated he is the coordinator for the nutrition program. He reports that for the Senior Ambassador Program meal delivery, at the end of 2016 they had 5 ambassadors who delivered 679 meals, 2017 they had 28 ambassadors that delivered 24,756 meals, 2018 they had 34 ambassadors that delivered 58,062 meals, and 2019 they had an average of 42 ambassadors delivering 80,064 meals. The program has helped absorb most of the growth the last 4 years. Ambassadors go through food safety handling, elder abuse training, background checks, and a defensive driving course. It is the first program in Human Services Agency to allow volunteers to drive county vehicles. Over the past year they have ventured into transportation. They have 4-5 volunteers and 2 dedicated vehicles for the transportation program. The rides given have been as much as over 60 rides a month to as little as 10 rides. Rick asked how the program started, Todd replied they did outreach and used the program that connected him with people looking to volunteer in home delivered meals. Danada asked what the name is, the reply is Senior Ambassador Program. The eligibility for the transportation program is that the person needs to be 60 years plus, focus is people outside the McCarran loop looking to go into the loop. Access is through Todd's phone number or the dedicated cell phone number (775) 686-9424. Sarah asked if the vehicle is ADA complaint? The reply is yes, it has wheelchair accessibility. Sarah asked how far in advance does the transportation program need of notification, Todd replied as much notice as possible, 24 to 48 hours works well. Todd stated that on average in 2015, there were 20 volunteers, currently there are 82 participants across the sites; hours are tracked every month. Ryan Crane stated they will be doing something good for volunteers on volunteer appreciation week. Todd stated there is no cost to process paperwork for being a volunteer.

**8.\*Update and discussion on Washoe County issues and activities relating to seniors – Steve McBride**

Steve stated COVID 19 virus information flyers have been posted on all sites and the website.

The Senior Community Summit in April will have something on COVID 19. Steve explained the graphs (see attachment) that provide data points on different parts of senior services.

Sarah D. stated Banfield is another place where applications for grants can be turned in.

**9. \*Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee – Donna Clontz**

Donald stated their last meeting was February 26 and they talked about the census. They have a finalized draft for the newsletter they have been working on; it will be done quarterly. People can opt in to receive the newsletter via email. The committee has decided to table the AARP

Livable Communities for 6 months. At the last meeting they also had the N4 presentation. Donald reports there is an opening for Ward 4. Meetings are usually held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month. Also, Andrea Pelto has been appointed as the Reno liaison.

**10. Discussion and possible recommendations on assignments of tasks for Stuff-A-Bus and Older American Month 2020 activities and programs (For Possible Action)**

Ryan Crane presented the OAM digital letters and fillable forms for the booklet (see attachments). The digital form should help minimize errors and gather more accurate information on ideas or events that people have scheduled throughout the month. The deadline to turn in the forms is March 20<sup>th</sup>. This will give enough time to finalize the booklet and send for printing. Steve stated Chris Ciarlo has been working on Stuff-A-Bus, it looks like May 14 and 15 will be the day from 3pm to 7pm at Sam's Club; Chris has also contacted KOLO 8. Chris has a communication plan in place that has key events from beginning to end of OAM. Donna stated for board members to save the date for those who would like to be there and help during Stuff-A-Bus and after to help count and categorize. Sarah asked if the form required to fill out to get something is going to change; Steve stated it may not because of certain requirements, but he will talk to people about it.

**11. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding a program development for registering all Senior Center participants in the 2020 census by computer (For Possible Action) – Larry Weiss**

Ryan states there is a gentleman that is actively recruiting census takers and he is attending other centers as well. Ryan stated that tomorrow he is having a Census ambassador training for senior center staff, they are still working on a plan for homebound seniors. Sarah stated Volunteers of America is also working on Census, Charles Clay is a point person. Donna stated she wrote an article about the census for the Senior Spectrum. The Census is working on helping people with disabilities fill out the form.

**12. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding recruiting new board members for District 5 and an Alternate seat (For Possible Action)**

Donna states there is now an opening for District 1. Steve states he can look into putting the opening out.

**13. Update, report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding age friendly communities sponsored by AARP throughout the county and cities (For Possible Action)**

Donna states she has the latest draft of Age Friendly and Sandra can send out to the board (see attachments). The other piece is a draft media plan and they are aiming at getting it finalized by mid-April. Donna states they are looking for feedback on the forms.

**14. Discussion and possible recommendation to co-host a community seminar regarding current senior mental health issues and services, including topics relating to suicide prevention, elder abuse, law enforcement programs and policies in dealing with crimes against elders, training seniors and staff in techniques to prevent, de-escalate and defuse negative social interactions with others. (For Possible Action)**

Steve stated they are working at finalizing the agenda and details by next week. They are looking at a couple of presentations. It will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8am-11:30am at the Commission Chambers. There will be tables outside of the Chambers with coffee and snack. There will be a

panel and there is a suggested question and answer section for the panel. Anyone in the senior community that is interested is welcome to attend.

**15. Report, discussion, possible recommendations and updates on the Advisory Board member's Shared Issues and Goals for Housing, Advocacy, Communication & Information, Data Planning, Transportation, Nutrition Programs, Social & Recreation, Senior Law, Volunteering, Financing, and Social & Health Services (For Possible Action)**

Barbara stated that in regards to funding and grants, there is Community Foundations of Northern Nevada. She will look into donations but needs to find out if it needs to be a 501c3. It is the organization to go to in Reno.

Sarah talked about GO GO. One drawback is that the person has to be registered and needs to have a credit card on file. It is slightly pricier than Uber and Lyft, but the ride can be shared. They also had a performance concert at Sierra Manor, and it was well attended.

Donna stated there is a class called Bridges Out of Poverty that is useful for social workers and volunteers that may want to do it (see attachment).

**16. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations on senior board members to attend ongoing Washoe County public meetings (For Possible Action)**

Donna stated she has attended the City of Reno Council meeting and is learning about the budget and fees.

Sarah states she attended the Senior Coalition meeting and it was very beneficial.

**17. Agenda items for the next Board meeting (For Possible Action)**

Repeat most of agenda

Add Mark for May agenda to present on how to navigate various community agendas

Orientation and walk through on home delivered meals program/Synopsis on what's going on with the kitchen

Next meeting is joint, county hosts, maybe someone can present on COVID 19

Add census in April

**18. \*Public comment –**

No public comment.

**19. Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

Motion to adjourn was made by Rick Sorensen and seconded by Barbara Korosa. Motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm.